GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5838
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2001
HARMFUL EFFECTS OF PESTICIDES
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned `with that fruit bite, you would be licking pesticides appearing in the Times of India dated July 10,2001;

(b) whether the Government have taken any steps to educate the farmers in regard to the use of pesticides in harvesting the fruits and vegetables so as to reduce the harmful effects of pesticides on human beings;

(c) whether the Government propose to launch any programme for creating awareness amongst the people about the use of fruits and vegetables after taking all the precautionary measures; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d): Following are the steps taken by the Government:-

(i). The Registration Committee constituted under the Insecticides Act,1968, whilegranting registration for pesticides, prescribes dosage, waiting period, number and method of application so as to ensure that pesticides residues are within the tolerance limits prescribed under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act,1954.

(ii). To check unsafe farming practices, the Government is promoting eco-friendly approach through Integrated Pest Management (IPM) on various crops.

(iii). An educational and training Programme on IPM for farmers and extensionfunctionaries has been launched for safe and judicious use of chemical pesticides.

(iv). Use of bio-control agents, bio-pesticides including neem based pesticides is being encouraged.

(v). The Food Health Authorities of States/UTs implementing the provisions ofPrevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act,1954 and Rules, 1955 have been advised from time to time to keep strict vigil on the level of pesticides residues in food commodities.

(vi). Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have undertaken consumer education programme to create awareness amongst the people about the use of fruits and vegetables after taking all the precautionary measures.